

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8404

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4268

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA RESPONSE TO LATEST LEBANESE CEASE-FIRE

1. JULY 3 MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED AGREEMENT OF ALL PARTIES IN LEBANON TO CEASE-FIRE ARRANGED BY ARAB LEAGUE COMMITTEE AND ANNOUNCED BY AL SEC GEN RIAD UPON HIS RETURN TO DAMASCUS AFTERNOON JULY 2. PRESS HEADLINED: "CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT IN LEBANON AND ACTION TO IMPLEMENT CAIRO ACCORD AND ITS ANNEXES. CONTINUATION OF CONTACTS TO CONSULT ON STAGES FOR IMPLEMENTING NEW AGREEMENT AND ITS DETAILS."

2. COLUMNISTS ASSERTED THAT IF CEASE-FIRE RESPECTED IT WOULD CONSTITUTE BASIC STEP TOWARD RESTORING PEACE TO COUNTRY AND RESUMING POLITICAL DIALOGUE. ONE CLAIMED THAT CEASE-FIRE

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AND POLITICAL PROGRESS WOULD RESCUE PALESTINIANS

FROM THEIR PREDICAMENT IN LEBANON AND OFFER THEM OPPORTUNITY TO DEVOTE FULL ATTENTION TO THEIR MAIN GOAL, LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY. BUT COLUMNIST WARNED THAT THOSE WHO ASSOCIATED WITH PLOT AGAINST LEBANON WOULD TRY TO SABOTAGE CEASE-FIRE BECAUSE THEY FEAR IT MIGHT LEAD TO POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

3. SECOND COLUMNIST ATTACKED IRAQ, JUMBLATT, "SOME FATAH LEADERS AND SOME ARABS" WHO TRYING TO PROMOTE IDEA THAT SYRIA PARTICIPATING IN FIGHTING IN LEBANON "WHILE EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT SYRIAN FORCES ARE STATIONED 30 KILOMETERS AWAY FROM SCENE OF BATTLES." HE ADDED THAT THESE ELEMENTS HAD DISTORTED SYRIAN INTERVENTION TO STOP FIGHTING IN LEBANON AS "SYRIAN INVASION TO STRIKE AT PALESTINIANS."

4. ANOTHER WRITER CHARGED THAT PLA COMMANDER BUDAYRI HAD SEEN A NOTORIOUS ZIONIST SPY WORKING WITH FATAH WHILE HE HELD CAPTIVE BY FATAH.

5. COMMENT: SYRIAN MEDIA TODAY UNUSUAL IN BLAMING LEBANESE PROBLEMS ON ACTIONS OF OTHER ARABS RATHER THAN ON THOSE OF IMPERIALISTS. JULY 2 COLUMNIST HAD GIVEN MORE CONVENTIONAL TREATMENT IN DENOUNCING ALLON'S RENEWED OFFER TO END STATE OF BELLIGERENCY AS PART OF GREATER PLOT AGAINST ARAB UNITY OF WHICH LEBANESE CRISIS WAS FURTHER MANIFESTATION.
MURPHY

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